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MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

RICHMOND, VA., *September* 24, 1862.

To the Senate
and House of Representatives:

I herewith transmit for your consideration, a communication from the Secretary of War, covering an estimate "of the Commissary General of the sum necessary to purchase the supply of flour for the army, for the ensuing season."

I recommend an appropriation of the amount, and for the purpose specified.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,

WAR DEPARTMENT,

Richmond, Va., September 19, 1862.

His Excellency, JEFFERSON DAVIS,

President Confederate States America:

SIR: I have the honor to submit duplicate estimates of the Commissary General, of the sum necessary to purchase the supply of flour for the army, for the ensuing season. I concur entirely in the opinion of the Commissary General, that it is advisable to have the means of making purchases at pleasure, during the grinding season, which ends in June next.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. RANDOLPH,

Secretary of War.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

SUBSISTENCE DEPARTMENT.

Richmond, September 15, 1862.

Hon. G. W. RANDOLPH,

Secretary of War:

SIR: On 17th July last, in compliance with your directions, an estimate was made for the month of December. I added an estimate for the enhancement of prices for the period up to 1st December, previously provided for by Congressional appropriations. Also, an estimate for procuring meats during the coming season, for the ensuing year. I now submit one for the purchase of wheat.

The War Department has hitherto directed estimates to be made from session to session. This will not suffice now. Without special exertion it is not quite certain that a sufficiency of flour can be had. The loss of wheat crops in a great portion of the country still in our possession—the devastations of war in Virginia—the loss of animal transportation, and labor by farmers—the wearing out of railroads and stock, and destruction of bridges, &c., &c., conspired to make the grinding of the last year small, and the moving of the present crop to the mills, difficult.

Flour has been bought to the full extent of the funds available, and had to be distributed for the period for which those funds were appropriated. Throughout the country east of the Mississippi, and south of Virginia, flour has been sent from here to the different armies in the field, because every exertion to supply them with the wheat of their respective districts has proved insufficient, notwithstanding that the substitutes of corn-meal and rice have been employed as fully as practicable. You will remember that some time since, I had to present to you the alternative of returning to a seller a large purchase of flour if the funds, for which requisition was made, should not be forthcoming. It has been bought for *cash*, and sold low in consequence. A plan to buy wheat and have it ground, has been arranged, and has been approved by you. You will of course, therefore, approve the estimate made for effecting the object sought.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. B. NORTHROP, *C. G. S.*

SPECIAL ESTIMATE

Of funds required for the purchase of Flour for the use of C. S. Army, estimating its number at 475,000 men, for twelve months, or 365 days. One-fifth of whole number Rations being deducted for the supply of that proportion of Corn-meal, viz:

	Rations.
475,000 men for 365 days	173,375,000
Add one-eighth, gives Flour	21,671,875
Or Bread rations	195,046,875

	Bushels.
Reduced to barrels	995,137
Deduct one-fifth for Meal	199,027
Total amount required	796,110
At $12 per barrel, gives	$9,553,320
Deduct two-sevenths for time from date to December 31st	2,729,520
	6,823,800

The object of this bureau has been to issue Corn-meal and Rice in lieu of Flour, but notwithstanding the general impression, it is a fact that the troops do not like a large use of either substitute. Furthermore, as this department has to provide for the laborers employed to work upon gunboats, fortifications, and other public purposes, the estimate is not too large, and as the wheat will be purchased as it can be got in, through the grinding season, till July '63. If in excess of demand, operation can be checked and the money not being made will not wait idle. It is likewise necessary to work the salt mines on the Teche. Furthermore, before the fall of New Orleans, the plan of laying in a stock of sugar and molasses for twelve months was instituted, but soon checked. Another plan is in operation, by which a boat load of 900 hogsheads was landed at Vicksburg, and 2,000 more already purchased at from three to four cents. While the opportunity exists, it is desired to get all we want. For neither of the last two objects have demands been made at this time, because the flour fund not used at once, can be so appropriated. It is requisite that the funds asked for be granted.

L. B. NORTHROP, *C. G. S.*

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